

LIVE the DREAM

Victor Li encourages youths to follow their dreams



RUBBING SHOULDERS with a star radio DJ, sampling the delights of a five-star hotel, receiving career advice from one of Hong Kong's top business leaders – not exactly the average day in the life of a kid. But that is exactly what a group of youngsters from the Youth Outreach crisis centre experienced thanks to the Cheung Kong Group.

Apart from enjoying a day they will never forget, the youngsters were also given an inspirational message from Victor Li, Managing Director and Deputy Chairman of Cheung Kong (Holdings) Limited, that could change their lives: Live your dream and anything in life is possible. “The human spirit and imagination are powerful forces,” said Mr Li. “Human beings are amazing. You can do stuff that you can't even imagine is possible.”

Thirteen youngsters aged between 10 and 16 staying at the Youth Outreach crisis centre in Sai Wan Ho started their special day at the Metro Radio studios in Whampoa Garden. They were shown around the station and given an insight into the different operational units that support a thriving radio business. The group had the chance to chat with popular DJ and pop star Barry Ip about his career, as well as record their own radio advertisements and entertainment news programmes with Metro Radio staff.

Then it was off to the Harbour Plaza Hong Kong hotel where the youngsters were given the full five-star treatment and a rare chance to go behind the scenes and see what makes a top-class hotel tick. Besides visiting a deluxe harbour-view room, the Presidential suite, the spectacular rooftop pool and gym, they were also shown how the housekeeping and laundry facilities operate, as well as given a tour of the main kitchen and an opportunity to make the hotel's speciality, chocolate covered candied ginger.

It was then time to sit down and have a chat with Mr Li and Father Peter Newbery, founder of the Youth Outreach organisation. During the session, Mr Li emphasised the importance of having dreams and following them.

“Without dreams, a lot of things would not happen – a lot of progress and developments originated from dreams. Hong Kong's success today is built on the dreams of the generations before us. If you look at the old photos, Hong Kong really did used to be a barren rock. Look at it now,” Mr Li said.

“The best dreams are the ones that other people think are impossible. It doesn't matter if your dreams don't come true – just work hard to achieve them. The process is what is important.

The effort you put in will take you to new grounds, enabling you to see your goals. During the process, if the goal does not seem realistic or attainable, despite putting in your greatest efforts, have another dream.”

While working hard to achieve one's dream, perseverance is an important attribute. Mr Li recalled the day he met a man

in his seventies on a ski lift in Canada. “This man was a great example of the human spirit,” he said. “After losing his leg in the war, he refused to let his life be compromised by his perceived disability. He had his heart set on learning to ski, and with only one leg he mastered this art. Despite his age and his physical setbacks, he was an outstanding skier. This man's commitment to his goals and his perseverance are an inspiration.”

When it came to work, Mr Li discussed the value of doing something one enjoys. “If you enjoy what you do, it is not hard work,” he said. “But if you don't, even a simple task can be a pain. Whether the work is tough or not is a matter of perception. Don't let that hold you back.”

At the end of the session, one of the youngsters asked Mr Li about his dreams for the future. “My dream is to keep on dreaming,” he replied. “It's dangerous to stop dreaming.”

By giving youngsters a real insight into his philosophies on work and life, Mr Li taught them a valuable lesson about pursuing their dreams. 



After a tour of Metro Radio and the Harbour Plaza Hong Kong hotel, youngsters from Youth Outreach met with Father Newbery and Victor Li.

REACHING OUT

YOUTH OUTREACH is a crisis intervention centre for youths established in November 1991. Its services include Crisis Centres for both boys and girls, a 24-hour emergency hotline, an all-night Outreaching Programme that scours the streets of Hong Kong for “Runaways and Throwaways”, and many other initiatives to foster the development of young people in need. The Li Ka Shing Foundation contributed HKDI million to Youth Outreach earlier in the year.